CLAIMS

1. A payment system for automatic vending machines, characterized in that it comprises at least one micro-processor or electronic chip (10), which can be

5   suitably programmed so as to univocally identify the fingerprints (30) of each user of said machines, by memorization in memory elements (40) and comparison of certain scanning points of their images to effect electronic identification.

10 2. The payment system according to claim 1, characterized in that said memorized fingerprints (30) are associated with a price corresponding to the product selected by said user, by means of a push-button device (52), so as to progressively scale down

15 its value (70) on the basis of the products consumed (90).

3. The payment system according to claim 1, characterized in that said fingerprints (30) are acquired by means of an electronic acquisition

20 apparatus (20) and identification and comparison procedure (60).

4. The payment system according to claim 2, characterized in that said push-button device (52) comprises at least one key (51) for controlling the

25 remaining credit, by the pressing of at least one

fingertip, whose fingerprint (30) has been memorized.

5. The payment system according to claim 1, characterized in that said fingerprints (30) are acquired by means of an electronic processing of the images relating to the geometric form of the fingerprint (30).

6. The payment system according to claim 1, characterized in that said micro-processor (10) transmits the reading data of said fingerprints (30) to said memory (40), which acts as an archive, associating the amounts paid by said users to the digital images of the fingerprints (30) corresponding to said users.